

F L O O D
D I S C H A R G E S



IN THE
UPPER MISSISSIPPI
RIVER BASIN
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Front Cover—View of Highway 67, West Alton, Missouri,
(Srenco Photography, St. Louis, Mo.)

Back Cover—View of Spirit of St. Louis Airport,
Chesterfield, Mo. (Srenco Photography,
St. Louis, Mo.)

Field Hydrologist making streamflow
measurements (U.S. Geological Survey)

FLOOD DISCHARGES IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN, 1993

By Charles Parrett, Nick B. Melcher, and Robert W. James, Jr.

Floods in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, 1993

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FOREWORD

During spring and summer 1993, record flooding inundated much of the upper Mississippi River Basin. The magnitude of the damages—in terms of property, disrupted business, and personal trauma—was unmatched by any other flood disaster in United States history. Property damage alone is expected to exceed \$10 billion. Damaged highways and submerged roads disrupted overland transportation throughout the flooded region. The Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers were closed to navigation before and after the flooding. Millions of acres of productive farmland remained under water for weeks during the growing season. Rills and gullies in many tilled fields are the result of the severe erosion that occurred throughout the Midwestern United States farm-belt. The hydrologic effects of extended rainfall throughout the upper Midwestern United States were severe and widespread. The banks and channels of many rivers were severely eroded, and sediment was deposited over large areas of the basin's flood plain. Record flows submerged many areas that had not been affected by previous floods. Industrial and agricultural areas were inundated, which caused concern about the transport and fate of industrial chemicals, sewage effluent, and agricultural chemicals in the floodwaters. The extent and duration of the flooding caused numerous levees to fail. One failed levee on the Raccoon River in Des Moines, Iowa, led to flooding of the city's water treatment plant. As a result, the city was without drinking water for 19 days.

As the Nation's principal water-science agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is in a unique position to provide an immediate assessment of some of the hydrological effects of the 1993 flood. The USGS maintains a hydrologic data network and conducts extensive water-resources investigations nationwide. Long-term data from this network and information on local and regional hydrology provide the basis for identifying and documenting the effects of the flooding. During the flood, the USGS provided continuous streamflow and related information to the National Weather Service (NWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and many State and local agencies as part of its role to provide basic information on the Nation's surface- and ground-water resources at thousands of locations across the United States. The NWS has used the data in forecasting floods and issuing flood warnings. The data have been used by the Corps of Engineers to operate water diversions, dams, locks, and levees. The FEMA and many State and local emergency management agencies have used USGS hydrologic data and NWS forecasts as part of the basis of their local flood-response activities. In addition, USGS hydrologists are conducting a series of investigations to document the effects of the flooding and to improve understanding of the related processes. The major initial findings from these studies will be reported in this Circular series as results become available.

U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1120, *Floods in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, 1993*, consists of individually published chapters that will document the effects of the 1993 flooding. The series includes data and findings on the magnitude and frequency of peak discharges; precipitation; water-quality characteristics, including nutrients and man-made contaminants; transport of sediment; assessment of sediment deposited on flood plains; effects of inundation on ground-water quality; flood-discharge volume; effects of reservoir storage on flood peaks; stream-channel scour at selected bridges; extent of flood-plain inundation; and documentation of geomorphologic changes.



Acting Director
August 27, 1993

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CONVERSION FACTORS

<i>Multiply</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>To obtain</i>
inch	25.4	millimeter
foot	0.3048	meter
mile	1.609	kilometer
acre	4,047	square meter
square mile	2.590	square kilometer
cubic foot per second	0.02832	cubic meter per second

Flood Discharges in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, 1993

By Charles Parrett, Nick B. Melcher, and Robert W. James, Jr.

Abstract

From mid-June through early August 1993, flooding was severe in the upper Mississippi River Basin following a wet-weather pattern that persisted over the area for at least 6 months before the flood. The magnitude and timing of several intense rainstorms in late June and July, combined with wet antecedent climatic conditions, were the principal causes of the flooding.

Flood-peak discharges that equaled or exceeded the 10-year recurrence interval were recorded at 154 streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin. At 41 streamflow-gaging stations, the peak discharge was greater than the previous maximum known discharge. At 15 additional gaging stations, peak discharges

exceeded the previous maximum regulated peak discharge. At 45 gaging stations, peak discharges exceeded 100-year recurrence intervals.

INTRODUCTION

From mid-June through early August 1993, severe flooding in the upper Mississippi River Basin (fig. 1) followed heavy and persistent rainfall from January through July. The flooding was unusual because it came so late in the spring-summer runoff season and because of the large number of streamflow-gaging stations that had record or near-record peak discharges. Record peak discharges were recorded from mid-June through early August at U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow-gaging stations in the Minnesota River Basin in Minnesota; in the Iowa, the Skunk, the Des Moines, the Little

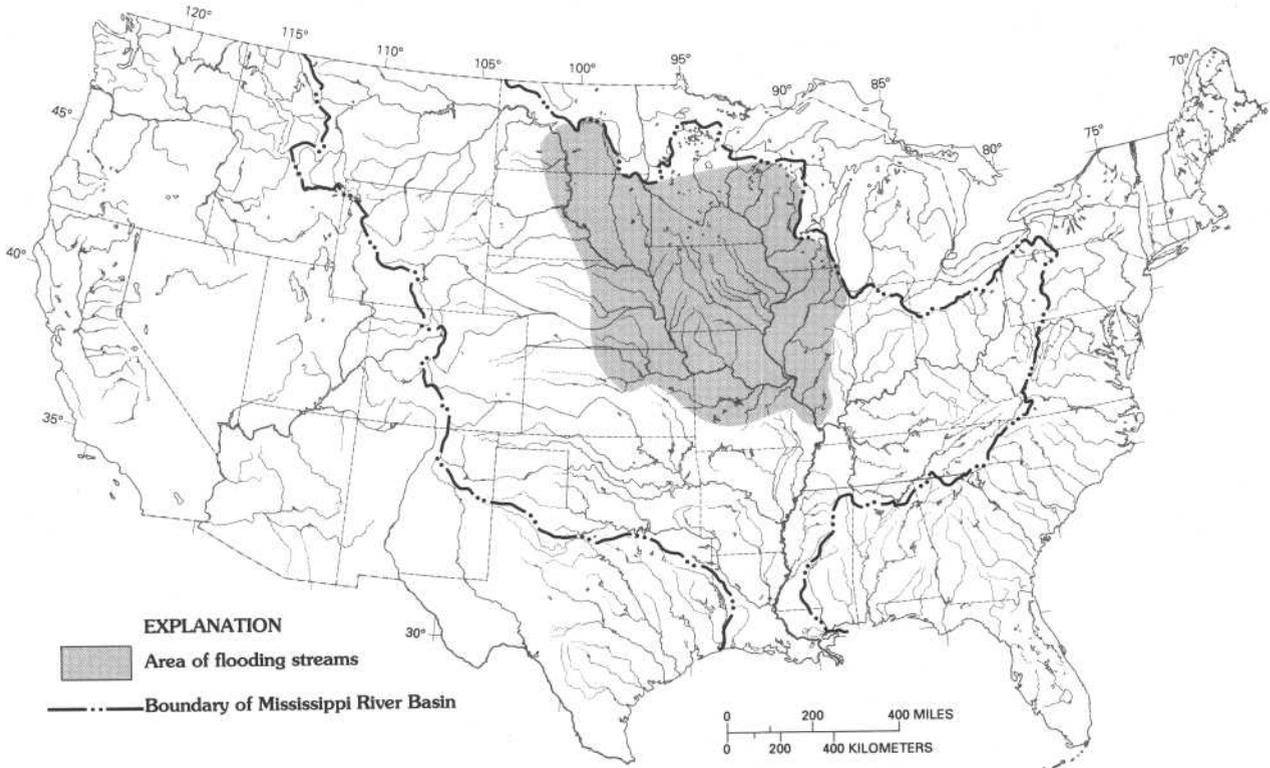


Figure 1. The Mississippi River Basin and general area of flooding streams, June to August 1993.

Sioux, and the Nishnabotna River Basins in Iowa; on the Mississippi River at Keokuk, Iowa; in the James River Basin in North and South Dakota; in the Platte River Basin in Nebraska; in the Kansas River Basin in Kansas; in the Grand River Basin in Missouri; and along the Missouri River from St. Joseph to Booneville, Missouri. Unusually high flood discharges were recorded at other locations throughout the area of flooding. The flooding also was unusual for its long duration and widespread and severe damage. At St. Louis, Missouri, the Mississippi River reached flood stage on June 26 and was still above flood stage in mid-August. Millions of acres of agricultural and urban lands in the upper Mississippi Basin were inundated for weeks, and unofficial damage estimates exceeded \$10 billion.

Purpose and Scope

As the principal Federal agency responsible for the collection of streamflow data, the USGS operates a network of about 7,300 continuous-record streamflow-gaging stations throughout the Nation. These streamflow records, some of which extend back to the 19th century, form the basis for the discussion of the 1993 flood in this report. This report describes the flooding in the upper Mississippi River Basin from mid-June through early August 1993 and the peak discharges at selected sites. Peak discharges for the 1993 flood are compared with previous maximum discharges and, for selected sites with long periods of record, are graphically compared with all previously known annual peak discharges.

Flood Recurrence Interval

For comparative purposes, flood-peak discharges are referenced to a specific recurrence interval or probability of occurrence. The recurrence interval is the average number of years between occurrences of annual peak discharges that equal or exceed a specified discharge. For example, a discharge that has a 100-year recurrence interval is so large that an equal or greater annual peak discharge is expected, on average, only once in any 100-year period. Because of the random nature of flood events, the times between annual peak discharges of a certain magnitude are far from uniform; a large flood in one year does not preclude the occurrence of an even larger flood the next year. In any given year,

the annual peak discharge has 1 chance in 100 of equaling or exceeding the 100-year flood (U.S. Inter-agency Advisory Committee on Water Data, 1982).

Recurrence intervals for the 1993 flood peaks presented in this report are generally determined by using the most current published USGS flood-frequency reports for States in the area of flooding. For Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, however, published flood-frequency reports do not include recent data; consequently, the recurrence intervals for the 1993 peak discharges are based on unpublished flood-frequency analyses archived in the USGS District offices in these States. Recurrence intervals for the 1993 peak discharges on the Kansas River, the Missouri River, and Mississippi River are based on unpublished flood-frequency analyses completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Gary Dyhouse, St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1993, written commun.; Jerry Buehre, Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1993, written commun.).

For this report, recurrence intervals have been categorized in ranges as follows: from 10 to 50 years, greater than 50 to 100 years, and greater than 100 years. Flood-frequency relations for streamflow-gaging stations in the area of flooding are expected to be updated on the basis of 1993 peak-discharge data.

CAUSES AND CHRONOLOGY OF FLOODING

The area of significant flooding in the upper Mississippi River Basin from mid-June to early August 1993 includes southern Minnesota, southwestern Wisconsin, Iowa, western Illinois, northern Missouri, southern North Dakota, and eastern parts of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Climatic Conditions

The areal extent and magnitude of the 1993 Mississippi River flood was due to a persistent wet-weather pattern that was throughout the upper Midwestern United States for at least 6 months preceding the flood. This persistent pattern resulted from an eastward-flowing jetstream that extended from central Colorado northeastward across Kansas to northern Wisconsin (National Weather Service, 1993).

Because of this jetstream, a weather-front convergence zone formed across the upper Midwestern

United States during the spring and summer months that preceded the flood. Moist, warm air from the Gulf of Mexico was drawn northward along this jetstream where it collided with cooler air masses drawn out of central Canada. The resultant unstable air masses persisted throughout the flooded area during spring and summer 1993 (National Weather Service, 1993). The climatic conditions that preceded this flood were remarkably similar to those that preceded the last large flood on the upper Mississippi River in April 1973 (Chinn and others, 1975).

Antecedent Hydrologic Conditions

In many parts of the flooded area, rainfall totals for January through July 1993 were one and one-half to two times the January-through-July normal precipitation for 1961 to 1990 (David Miskus, National Weather Service, written commun., 1993; fig. 2). For Iowa, which is centrally located in the area of flooding, November 1992 to April 1993 was the second wettest November-to-April period in 121 years of record. Intense rainfall in late March and early April caused serious, localized flooding in the Cedar River Basin in Iowa, the Rock River Basin in Illinois, and the Big Sioux River Basin in South Dakota.

Rainfall and runoff were above average throughout the flooded area from April to June 1993, and streams were generally bankfull at the end of June. The monthly discharge volumes for the Mississippi River at Keokuk for April through June were more than 200 percent of normal (April–June 1961–90). By late June, most flood-control reservoirs in the upper Mississippi River Basin were at or near capacity, and soils throughout the flooded area were saturated from excessive precipitation.

Chronology of the June to August 1993 Flooding

The magnitude and timing of several rainstorms in mid-June and July, combined with wet antecedent climatic conditions, were the principal causes of the severe flooding in the upper Mississippi River Basin. To illustrate the influence of the timing of runoff from these storms on the peak discharge on the Mississippi River, the peak discharges and their dates of occurrence for selected streamflow-gaging stations in the general area of flooding are shown in figure 3.

During June 17–18, 2 to 7 inches of rain fell throughout southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, and southwestern Wisconsin. Runoff from this storm caused flooding on the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers in Minnesota and the Chippewa and the Black Rivers in Wisconsin. As a result of these floodwaters, the discharge of the Mississippi River at Clinton, Iowa, peaked on July 5, 1993 (fig 3).

Two separate storms in early July caused large-scale flooding in Iowa. During the first storm on July 4–5, 2 to 5 inches of rain fell in central Iowa and caused lowland flooding on the Iowa, the Skunk, and the Des Moines Rivers. During the second storm on July 8–9, 2 to 8 inches of rain fell in central Iowa. Rivers throughout central Iowa had not receded from the July 4–5 storm, and the three major reservoirs in this part of the State were at capacity. The runoff from this storm, combined with the runoff from the July 4–5 storm, caused record or near-record peak discharges at streamflow-gaging stations throughout the Iowa, the Skunk, the Raccoon, and the Des Moines River Basins. The floodwaters from these rivers entered the Mississippi River at about the same time as the flood peak from the late June storm in northern basins reached Keokuk (fig. 3). The coincident timing of the flood peaks from these tributary rivers increased the peak discharge on the Mississippi River and aggravated flooding on the Mississippi River from Davenport, Iowa, to St. Louis. The discharge on the Mississippi River at St. Louis that resulted from these combined floodwaters peaked on July 20.

On July 15–16, 2 to 7 inches of rain fell in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota and caused flooding in the upper reaches of the Minnesota River Basin in Minnesota and the James River Basin in North Dakota. Although peak discharges from this storm were not as large in the lower reaches of these basins as the peak discharges of late June, the floodwaters from the James River added to the flooding of late July on the Missouri River.

From July 22 to 24, 2 to 13 inches of rain fell in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. The runoff from this storm caused record peak discharges on the Platte River in Nebraska and contributed large flows to previously filled reservoirs in the Kansas River Basin in Kansas. Discharges also were near-record on the Nishnabotna River in Iowa and the Illinois River in Illinois. Peak discharges on the Kansas River were the largest since 1951, which is before significant river regulation began.

Before the July 22 to 24 storm, the Missouri River was at or near flood stage as a result of large tributary inflows earlier in the month from the James

River in North and South Dakota, the Big Sioux River in South Dakota, and the Little Sioux River in Iowa. As a result, floodwaters from the Platte and

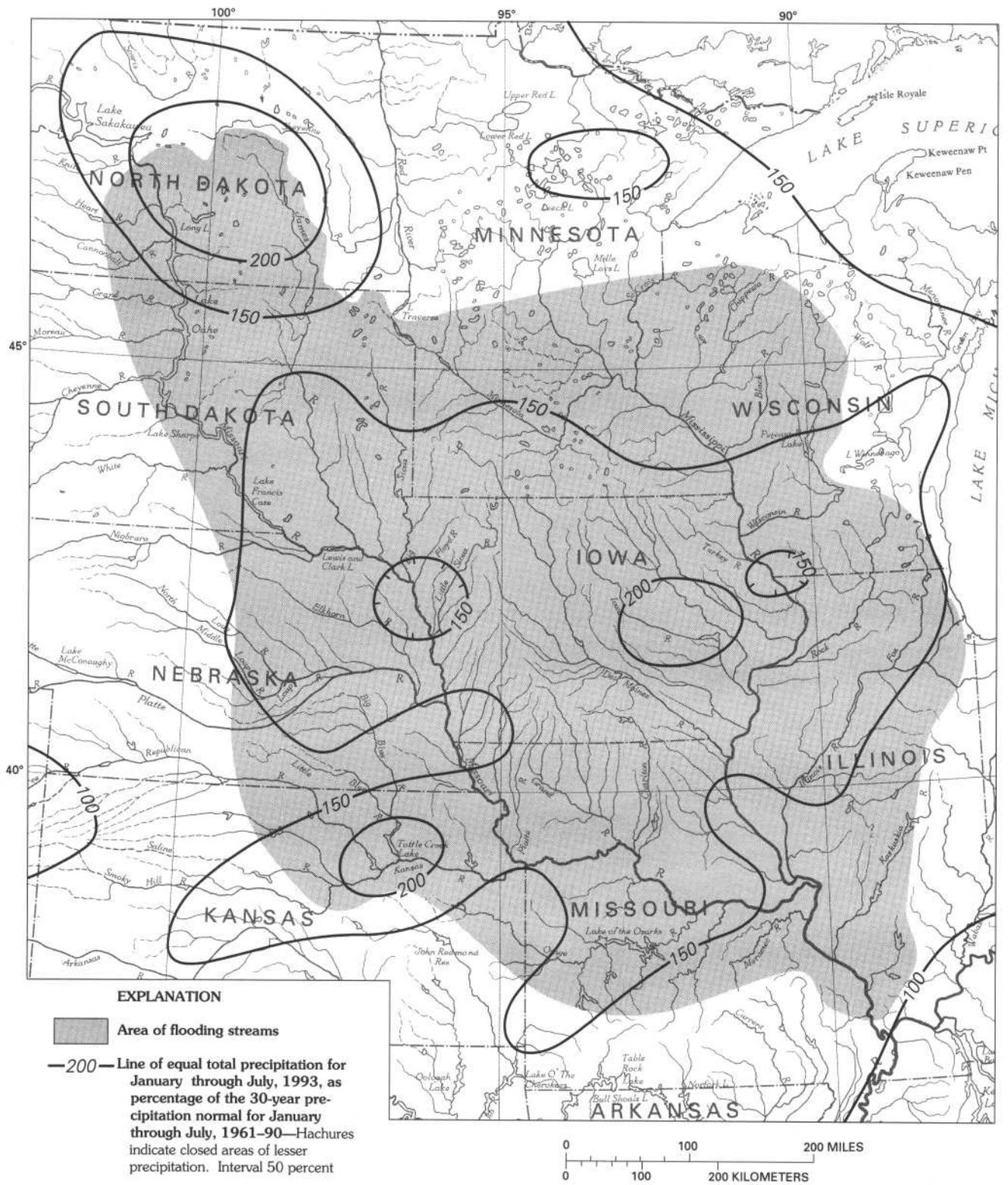


Figure 2. Areal distribution of total precipitation as a percentage of normal in the area of flooding in the upper Mississippi River Basin, January to July 1993.

the Kansas Rivers caused record or near-record peak discharges on the Missouri River at streamflow-gaging stations downstream from the confluence of the Platte River. The flood peak on the Missouri River reached Hermann, Missouri, on July 31 (fig. 3). The peak discharge from the Missouri River caused a second and greater peak discharge at the streamflow-gaging station on the Mississippi River at St. Louis on August 1.

Flood conditions on the Mississippi River differed above and below the confluence of the Ohio River. At Thebes, Illinois, just upstream from the confluence, severe flooding on the Mississippi River peaked on August 7. Downstream from the confluence, flooding on the Mississippi River was not severe because of less-than-average discharge contrib-

uted by the Ohio River and a substantially larger channel capacity in this reach of the Mississippi River. The discharge of the Ohio River was less than average during July and August as a result of generally dry conditions and low reservoir outflows throughout the Ohio River Basin.

PEAK DISCHARGES FOR THE 1993 FLOOD

Flood data for 154 streamflow-gaging stations in the area of flooding are listed in table 1 (at end of report), and the locations of the streamflow-gaging stations and the ranges of computed recurrence intervals for the 1993 peak discharges are shown in figure 4.

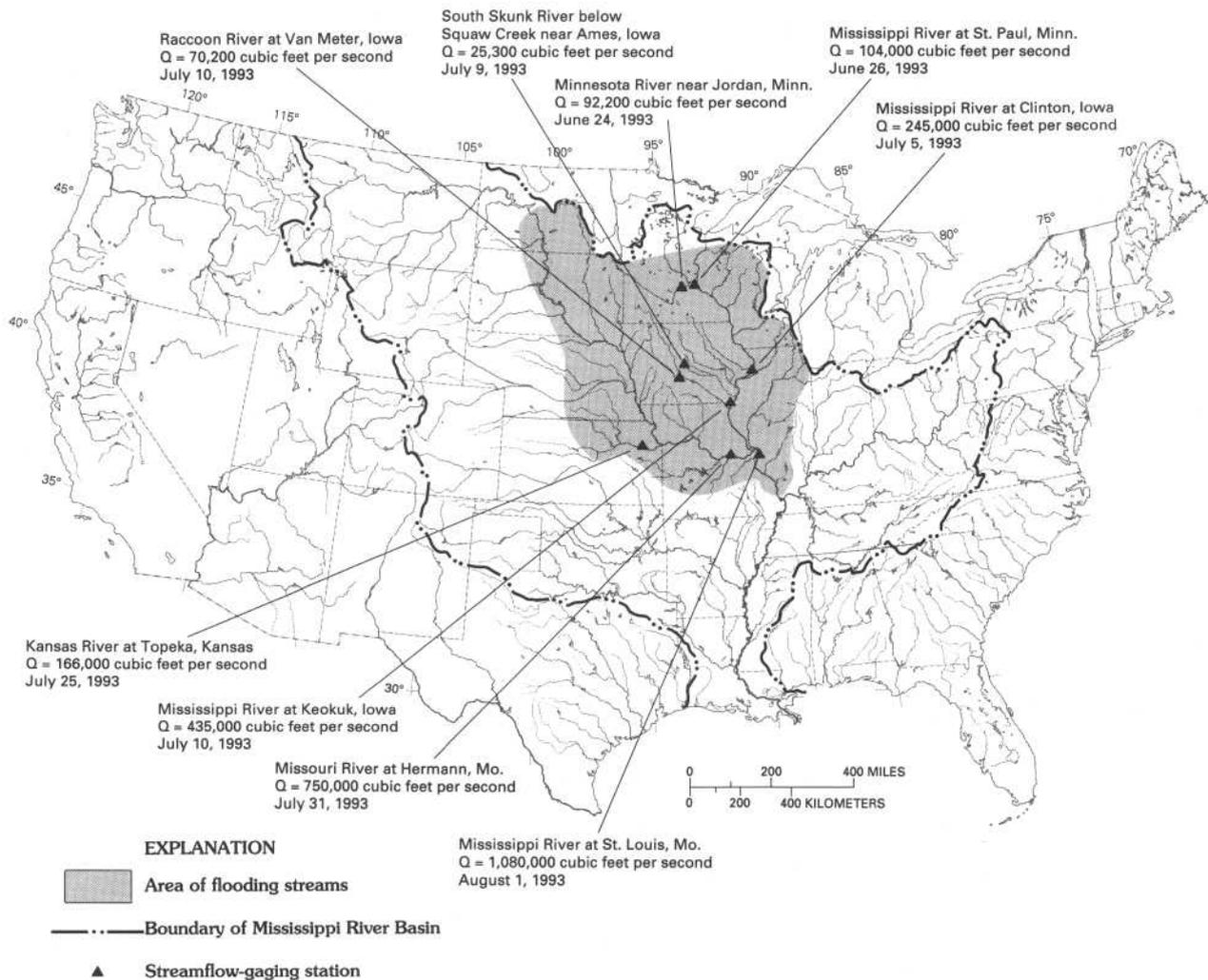


Figure 3. Peak discharges (Q) and dates of occurrence for the 1993 flood at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin.

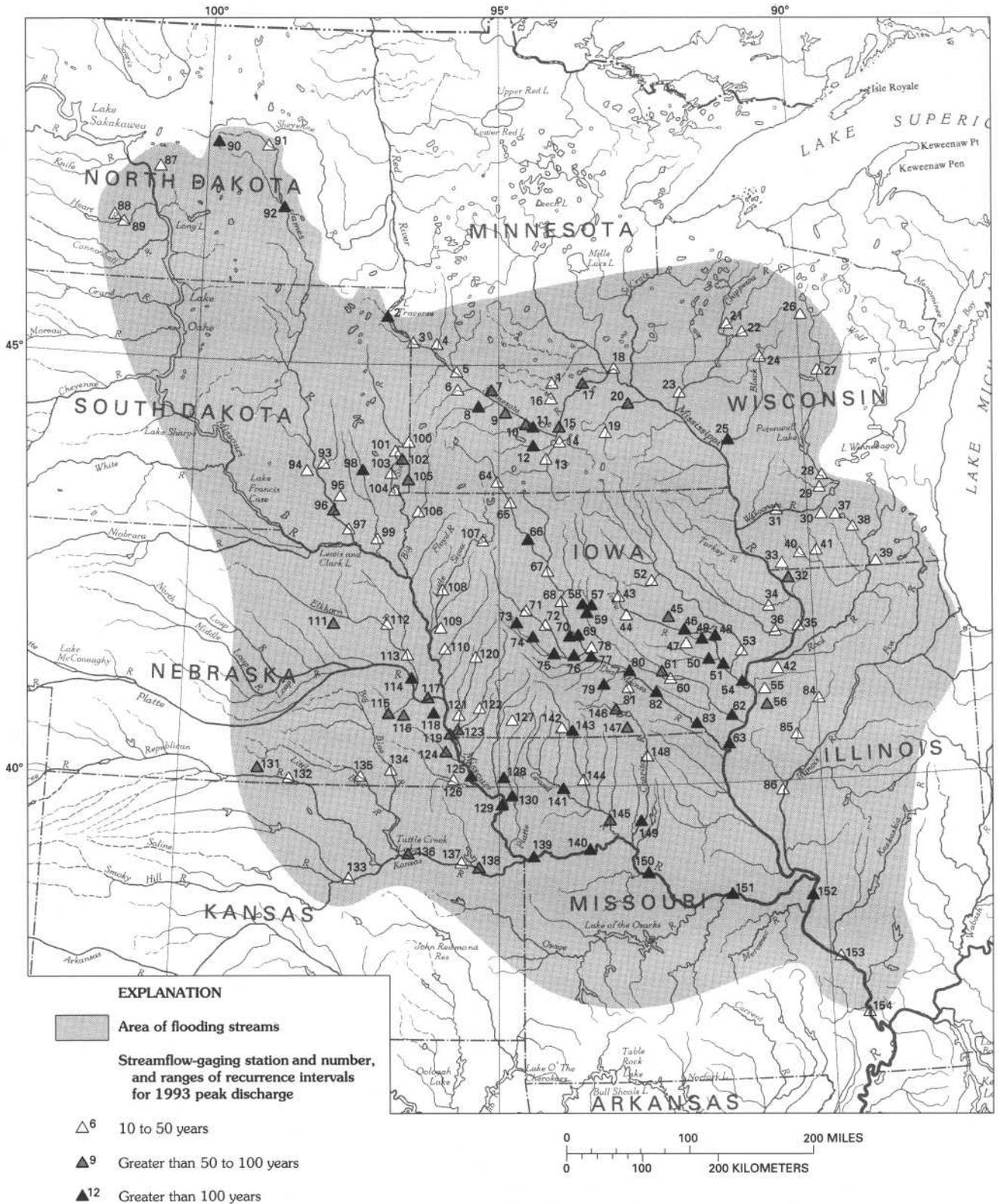


Figure 4. Location of selected streamflow-gaging stations and ranges in recurrence interval for the 1993 peak discharges in the upper Mississippi River Basin.

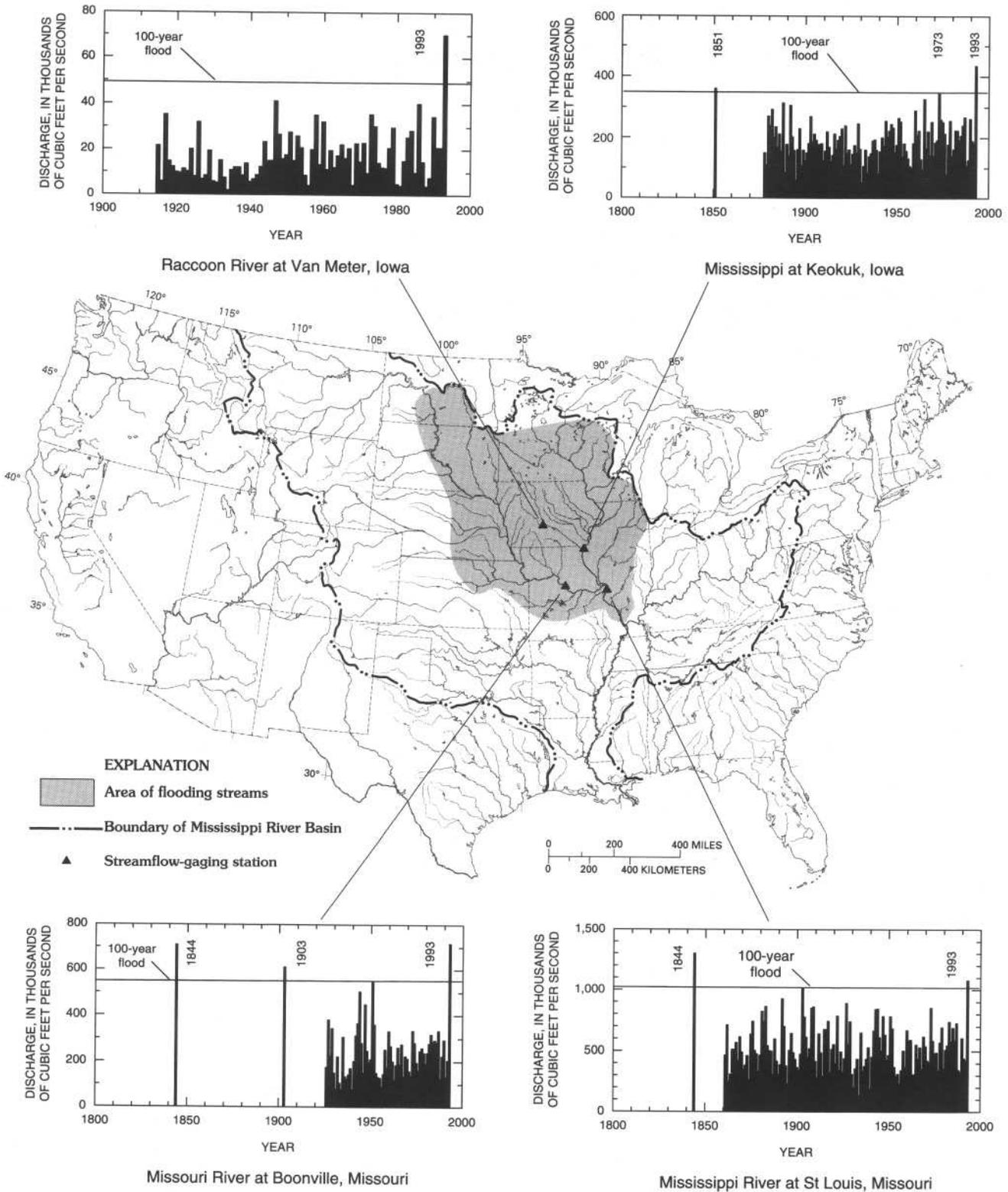


Figure 5. Historic peak discharges and peak discharges for the 1993 flood at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin.

Criteria for Selection

The streamflow-gaging stations that are shown in figure 4 and table 1 generally are located on major streams and had peak discharges with recurrence intervals of 10 years or greater from June to August 1993. After additional stage-discharge analyses are completed, some June to August 1993 peak discharges might be updated, and some additional streamflow-gaging stations, where 1993 peak discharges occurred during the antecedent hydrologic months of March to May and secondary peak discharges occurred from June to August, may be identified.

Although the focus of this report is on peak discharge, data on peak stage also are included in table 1 because peak stage is the primary indicator of over-bank flooding and is used to define the limits of inundation. The inclusion of peak-stage data is of particular interest for several sites on the Mississippi and the Missouri River mainstems, where the peak stages in 1993 substantially exceeded the previous maximum known stages. Because of the effect of man-made and natural changes in the channel and flood plain, some sites that had record stages in 1993 had less-than-record peak discharges.

Comparison With Historic Floods

As shown in table 1, 41 streamflow-gaging stations in the area of flooding had record peak discharges in 1993. In addition, 15 other stations had peak discharges that exceeded the previous maximum regulated discharge. At 45 stations, peak discharges had recurrence intervals of greater than 100 years.

Historic annual peak discharges and 1993 peak discharges at four streamflow-gaging stations that have long records of discharge are shown in figure 5. As shown in the figure, the 1993 peak discharge for the Raccoon River at Van Meter, Iowa, is remarkable because it was almost twice as large as any previous peak discharge in almost 80 years of record.

At two sites on the Mississippi River, the 1993 peak discharges were record or near-record discharges. The 1993 peak discharge for the Mississippi River at Keokuk was substantially greater than previous record peak discharges in 1973 and 1851. Although the 1993 peak discharge for the Mississippi River at St. Louis was not a record discharge, it was substantially larger

than that for the large flood of 1973. The 1993 peak discharge for the Mississippi River at St. Louis was also slightly greater than that in 1903 and only slightly less than the estimated record peak discharge in 1844.

The 1993 peak discharge for the Missouri River at Boonville, Missouri, also was a record discharge, which exceeded previous historic flood-peak discharges in 1951, 1903, and 1844. Because floodwaters upstream from Lewis and Clark Lake were contained in 1993 by the Missouri River dam system, the large peak discharge at Boonville is particularly notable.

At all four sites shown in figure 5, the 1993 peak discharge was greater than the discharge with a 100-year recurrence interval. At the Mississippi River at St. Louis, the 1993 peak discharge was slightly greater than the discharge with the 100-year recurrence interval. At the Raccoon River at Van Meter, however, the 1993 peak discharge was about 40 percent greater than the discharge with a 100-year recurrence interval.

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- Williams-Sether, Tara, 1992, *Techniques for estimating peak-flow frequency relations for North Dakota streams*: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 92-4020, 57 p.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin
[mi², square miles; ft, feet; ft³/s, cubic feet per second; >, greater than]

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
1	05278930	Buffalo Creek near Glencoe, Minn.	374	10.89	3,380	06/19	10– 50	11.78	4,300	09/1991
2	05290000	Little Minnesota River near Peever, S. Dak.	447	13.58	¹ 8,900	07/25	> 100	² 13.35	4,730	³ 04/1952
3	05292000	Minnesota River at Ortonville, Minn.	1,160	9.96	2,950	07/28	10– 50	12.92	3,060	04/1952
4	05294000	Pomme De Terre River at Appleton, Minn.	905	9.57	2,400	07/10	10– 50	³ 14.58	5,520	³ 07/1969
5	05311000	Minnesota River at Montevideo, Minn.	6,180	16.46	11,500	08/04	10– 50	² 21.68	35,100	04/1969
6	05313500	Yellow Medicine Rivert near Granite Falls, Minn.	653	10.84	8,340	06/21	10– 50	17.50	25,200	06/1919
7	05316500	Redwood River near Redwood Falls, Minn.	629	15.73	12,600	06/18	(> 50)–100	15.92	19,700	06/1957
8	05316570	Beaver Creek at Beaver Falls, Minn.	194	14.29	¹ 2,750	06/17	> 100	² 11.33	1,070	04/1985
9	05316700	Spring Creek near Sleepy Eye, Minn.	31.3	17.91	¹ 960	06/17	(> 50)–100	17.79	930	04/1965
10	05317000	Cottonwood River near New Ulm, Minn.	1,280	18.87	24,200	06/19	(> 50)–100	² 20.86	28,700	³ 04/1969
11	05317200	Liattle Cottonwood River near Courtland, Minn.	230	10.46	¹ 3,540	06/20	> 100	8.96	1,340	03/1985
12	05319500	Wantonwan River near Garden City, Minn.	812	15.89	14,400	06/20	> 100	18.72	19,000	04/1965
13	05320000	Blue Earth River near Rapidan, Minn.	2,430	13.32	20,300	06/20	10– 50	21.36	43,100	04/1965
14	05320500	Le Sueur River near near Rapidan, Minn.	1,100	13.33	11,500	06/21	10– 50	22.72	24,700	³ 04/1965
15	05325000	Minnesota River at Mankato, Minn.	14,900	30.11	75,600	06/21	(> 50)–100	29.9	110,000	04/1881
16	05326100	Middle Branch Rush River near Gaylord, Minn.	68.5	19.93	¹ 1,380	06/17	10– 50	19.78	920	06/1983
17	05330000	Minnesota River near Jordan, Minn.	16,200	33.52	92,200	06/24	(> 50)–100	35.07	117,000	06/1965
18	05331000	Mississippi River at St. Paul, Minn.	36,800	19.13	104,000	06/26	10– 50	26.01	171,000	04/1965
19	05353800	Straight River near Faribault, Minn.	442	11.16	5,920	06/17	> 10– 50	² 12.74	6,030	³ 07/1990
20	05355200	Cannon River at Welch, Minn.	1,320	13.19	18,800	06/17	(> 50)–100	14.01	36,100	04/1965
21	05360500	Flameau River near Bruce, Wis.	1,860	10.11	16,500	06/21	10– 50	10.90	17,600	³ 04/1986
22	05362000	Jump River at Sheldon, Wis.	576	13.20	16,400	06/21	10– 50	18.80	46,000	08/1941
23	05369500	Chippewa River at Durand, Wis.	9,010	15.76	90,100	06/23	10– 50	18.40	123,000	³ 04/1967
24	05381000	Black River at Neilsville, Wis.	749	19.28	30,300	06/20	10– 50	23.80	48,800	09/1938
25	05382000	Black River near Galesville, Wis.	2,080	16.64	64,000	06/21	> 100	⁴ 15.46	65,500	³ 04/1967
26	05393500	Spirit River at Spirit Falls, Wis.	81.6	7.4	2,700	06/21	10– 50	10.00	4,180	09/1942

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin—Continued

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
27	05398000	Wisconsin River at Rothschild, Wis.	4,020	27.48	44,400	06/21	10– 50	⁵ 18.46	49,200	04/1965
28	05404000	Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	8,090	18.16	59,100	06/24	10– 50	23.83	72,200	09/1938
29	05405000	Baraboo River near Baraboo, Wis.	609	22.78	6,360	07/18	10– 50	⁶ ⁷ 17.50	7,900	03/1917
30	05406500	Black Earth Creek at Black Earth, Wis.	45.6	6.13	1,320	07/06	10– 50	6.58	1,750	07/1954
31	05407000	Wisconsin River at Muscoda, Wis.	10,400	10.35	59,600	06/25	10– 50	⁴ 11.48	80,800	09/1938
32	05414820	Sinsinawa River near Menominee, Ill.	39.6	13.18	11,300	07/05	(> 50)–100	13.34	11,600	06/1969
33	05415000	Galena River at Buncombe, Wis.	125	16.7	16,000	07/06	10– 50	19.57	29,700	06/1969
34	05418500	Maquoketa River near Maquoketa, Iowa.	1,553	32.59	38,000	07/06	10– 50	⁵ 24.7	48,000	06/1944
35	05420500	Mississippi River at Clinton, Iowa.	85,600	² 22.98	245,000	³ 07/05	10– 50	24.65	307,000	04/1965
36	05422000	Wapsipinicon River near DeWitt, Iowa.	2,330	12.86	24,100	07/09	10– 50	14.19	31,100	06/1990
37	05427948	Pheasant Branch at Middleton, Wis.	18.3	8.92	¹ 746	07/06	10– 50	8.54	516	³ 03/1975
38	05429500	Yahara River near McFarland, Wis.	327	² 6.75	615	07/25	10– 50	² ⁵ 6.33	867	³ 04/1959
39	05431486	Turtle Creek at Carvers Rock Road near Clinton, Wis.	199	10.38	5,580	06/30	10– 50	⁷ 12.85	16,500	04/1973
40	05432500	Pecatonica River at Darlington, Wis.	273	18.22	12,400	07/06	10– 50	20.71	22,000	07/1950
41	05433000	East Branch Pecatonica River near Blanchardville, Wis.	221	16.54	6,560	07/06	10– 50	15.74	11,700	02/1948
42	05448000	Mill Creek at Milan, Ill....	62.4	10.29	7,680	06/25	10– 50	12.65	9,300	04/1973
43	05451500	Iowa River at Marshalltown, Iowa.	1,564	20.55	19,200	07/10	10– 50	20.47	42,000	³ 06/1918
44	05451700	Timber Creek near Marshalltown, Iowa.	118	17.10	8,250	07/09	10– 50	17.69	12,000	08/1977
45	05452000	Salt Creek near Elberon, Iowa.	201	20.85	28,000	07/09	(> 50)–100	20.00	35,000	³ 06/1947
46	05453100	Iowa River at Marengo, Iowa.	2,794	20.27	¹ 39,000	07/19	> 100	19.79	30,800	³ 03/1960
47	05454300	Clear Creek near Coralville, Iowa.	98.1	14.82	6,910	07/06	10– 50	16.36	10,200	06/1990
48	05454500	Iowa River at Iowa City, Iowa.	3,271	28.52	⁸ 28,200	08/10	> 100	⁶ ²⁴ 24.1	⁶ ⁹ 70,000	06/1851
49	05455100	Old Mans Creek near Iowa City, Iowa.	201	18.58	¹ 27,000	07/06	> 100	¹⁰ 28.21	¹⁰ 26,900	07/1993
50	05455500	English River at Kalona, Iowa.	573	22.55	¹ 33,000	07/06	> 100	21.45	20,000	09/1965
51	05455700	Iowa River at Lone Tree, Iowa.	4,293	22.94	¹ 57,000	07/07	> 100	20.27	35,700	³ 05/1974
52	05463500	Black Hawk Creek at Hudson, Iowa.	303	17.1	9,600	07/09	10– 50	18.23	19,300	07/1969

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin—Continued

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
53	05465000	Cedar River near Conesville, Iowa.	7,785	16.83	67,700	07/07	10– 50	16.85	70,800	³ 04/1961
54	05465500	Iowa River at Wapello, Iowa.	12,499	29.53	¹ 107,000	07/07	> 100	28.91	94,000	³ 06/1947
55	05467000	Pope Creek near Keithsburg, Ill.	174	² 29.08	6,860	07/24	10– 50	² 28.61	8,900	³ 04/1973
56	05469000	Henderson Creek near Oquawka, Ill.	432	³ 32.58	30,100	07/25	(> 50)–100	31.05	34,600	07/1982
57	05470000	South Skunk River near Ames, Iowa.	315	14.15	¹ 11,500	07/09	> 100	13.90	8,630	³ 06/1954
58	05470500	Squaw Creek at Ames, Iowa.	204	18.54	¹ 21,000	07/09	> 100	15.97	12,500	06/1990
59	05471000	South Skunk River below Squaw Creek near Ames, Iowa.	556	25.53	¹ 25,300	07/09	> 100	25.57	14,700	06/1975
60	05471500	South Skunk River near Oskaloosa, Iowa.	1,635	25.10	20,400	07/15	10– 50	25.80	37,000	05/1944
61	05472500	North Skunk River near Sigourney, Iowa.	730	24.72	22,600	07/06	(> 50)–100	25.33	27,500	03/1960
62	05474000	Skunk River at Augusta, Iowa.	4,303	23.68	54,400	07/10	> 100	27.05	66,800	04/1973
63	05474500	Mississippi River at Keokuk, Iowa.	119,000	27.15	⁴ 435,000	07/10	> 100	21.0	360,000	06/1851
64	05476000	Des Moines River at Jackson, Minn.	1,220	16.67	8,250	07/07	10– 50	19.45	15,700	04/1969
65	05476500	Des Moines River at Esterville, Iowa.	1,372	15.38	10,200	06/30	10– 50	17.68	16,000	04/1969
66	05476750	Des Moines River at Humboldt, Iowa.	2,256	15.22	¹ 19,000	07/13	> 100	15.40	18,000	04/1969
67	05480500	Des Moines River at Fort Dodge, Iowa.	4,190	15.73	31,000	07/14	10– 50	19.62	35,600	³ 04/1965
68	05481300	Des Moines River near Stratford, Iowa.	5,452	25.64	42,100	07/11	10– 50	29.7	57,400	06/1954
69	05481650	Des Moines River near Saylorville, Iowa.	5,841	24.12	⁸ 42,700	07/11 07/19	> 100	² 24.50 ¹⁰ 20.72	⁸ 60,000 ³ 30,100	06/1954 06/1984
70	05481950	Beaver Creek near Grimes, Iowa.	358	16.58	¹ 15,500	07/10	> 100	14.73	7,980	06/1986
71	05482135	North Raccoon River near Newell, Iowa.	233	15.99	2,250	07/11	10– 50	16.73	2,850	06/1984
72	05482500	North Raccoon River near Jefferson, Iowa.	1,619	19.23	16,800	07/10	10– 50	22.3	29,100	06/1947
73	05483450	Middle Raccoon River near Bayard, Iowa.	375	28.71	¹ 24,000	07/09	> 100	24.70	14,600	³ 07/1973
74	05483600	Middle Raccoon River at Panora, Iowa.	440	20.04	¹ 22,400	07/09	> 100	15.50	15,300	06/1986
75	05484000	South Raccoon River at Redfield, Iowa.	994	26.98	¹ 44,000	07/10	> 100	⁵ 29.04	35,000	07/1958
76	05484500	Raccoon River at Van Meter, Iowa.	3,441	26.34	¹ 70,200	07/10	> 100	22.69	41,200	³ 06/1947
77	05485500	Des Moines River below Raccoon River at Des Moines, Iowa.	9,879	34.29	¹ 116,000	07/11	> 100	⁷ 20.80 ¹⁰ 28.46	⁹ 77,000 ¹⁰ 58,400	06/1947 06/1984

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin—Continued

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
78	05485640	Fourmile Creek at Des Moines, Iowa.	92.7	15.36	⁶ 6,400	07/09	10– 50	14.84	5,340	06/1974
79	05487980	White Breast Creek near Dallas, Iowa.	342	30.11	25,300	07/06	> 100	33.45	37,300	07/1982
80	05488500	Des Moines River near Tracy, Iowa.	12,479	24.16	⁸ 109,000	07/12	> 100	⁹ 26.50 ¹⁰ 18.11	⁹ 155,000 ¹⁰ 42,600	06/1947 06/1984
81	05489000	Cedar Creek near Bussey, Iowa.	374	28.46	29,000	07/05	10– 50	34.61	96,000	07/1982
82	05489500	Des Moines River at Ottumwa, Iowa.	13,374	22.13	⁸ 112,000	07/12	> 100	⁷ ⁹ 22 ¹⁰ 14.64	⁹ 140,000 ¹⁰ 47,800	³ 05/1903 06/1984
83	05490500	Des Moines River at Keosauqua, Iowa.	14,038	32.66	⁸ 108,000	07/13	> 100	⁵ ⁹ 27.85 ¹⁰ 28.02	⁹ 146,000 ¹⁰ 72,200	06/1903 04/1973
84	05569500	Spoon River at London Mills, Ill.	1,072	25.92	24,000	07/25	10– 50	28.03	41,000	06/1974
85	05570000	Spoon River at Seville, Ill...	1,636	33.09	34,400	07/26	10– 50	² 33.0	37,300	³ 08/1924
86	05586100	Illinois River at Valley City, Ill.	26,742	² 25.92	97,500	³ 08/01	10– 50	28.61	123,000	05/1943
87	06341800	Painted Woods Creek near Wilton, N. Dak.	427	8.12	1,570	07/23	10– 50	9.64	4,050	04/1979
88	06347500	Big Muddy Creek near Almont, N. Dak.	456	30.94	8,680	07/23	10– 50	⁶ 30.7	20,200	04/1950
89	06348000	Heart River near Lark, N. Dak.	2,750	16.85	12,800	07/23	10– 50	20.7	29,200	04/1950
90	06467600	James River near Manfred, N. Dak.	253	9.40	² 2,600	07/23	> 100	⁹ 9.20	¹¹ 2,000	04/1979
91	06468170	James River near Grace City, N. Dak.	1,060	13.49	³ 3,520	07/28	10– 50	12.00	3,100	04/1969
92	06470000	James River at Jamestown, N. Dak.	2,820	13.60	⁸ 1,300	07/23	> 100	⁷ ⁹ 15.82 ¹⁰ 8.76	⁹ 6,390 ¹⁰ 996	05/1950 06/1983
93	06477150	Rock Creek near Fulton, S. Dak.	240	14.34	1,880	07/06	10– 50	⁴ 10.21	2,040	04/1969
94	06478052	Enemy Creek near Mitchell, S. Dak.	163	14.97	4,050	07/06	10– 50	15.15	4,280	06/1984
95	06478390	Wolf Creek near Clayton, S. Dak.	396	17.39	5,390	07/05	10– 50	18.01	6,520	06/1984
96	06478500	James River near Scotland, S. Dak.	20,653	19.94	19,300	07/06	(> 50)–100	20.45	29,400	06/1984
97	06478513	James River near Yankton, S. Dak.	20,942	21.15	15,600	07/08	10– 50	24.34	26,400	06/1984
98	06478540	Little Vermillion River near Salem, S. Dak.	78.6	11.95	³ 3,300	07/04	> 100	⁹ 9.88	900	06/1984
99	06479000	Vermillion River near Wakonda, S. Dak.	2,170	17.33	14,000	07/07	10– 50	17.62	17,000	06/1984
100	06479980	Medary Creek near Brookings, S. Dak.	200	11.78	³ 3,300	07/05	10– 50	11.27	2,590	06/1984
101	06480000	Big Sioux River near Brookings, S. Dak.	3,898	13.44	11,300	07/06	10– 50	14.77	33,900	04/1969
102	06480400	Spring Creek near Flandreau, S. Dak.	63.2	16.84	⁴ 4,500	07/03	(> 50)–100	15.72	2,030	06/1984
103	06481000	Big Sioux River near Dell Rapids, S. Dak.	4,483	15.78	18,800	07/06	10– 50	16.47	41,300	04/1969

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin—Continued

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
104	06482020	Big Sioux River at North Cliff Avenue at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.	5,216	23.84	18,000	07/07	10– 50	27.45	40,700	04/1969
105	06482745	Beaver Creek at Valley Springs, S. Dak.	104	24.19	⁶ 2,000	07/05	(> 50)–100	24.21	⁶ 2,000	05/1993
106	06483500	Rock River near Rock Valley, Iowa	1,592	19.77	28,500	07/12	10– 50	⁷ 17.32	40,400	04/1969
107	06605850	Little Sioux River at Linn Grove, Iowa.	1,548	20.77	¹ 16,400	07/02	10– 50	19.58	13,100	06/1984
108	06606600	Little Sioux River at Correctionville, Iowa.	2,500	23.82	22,600	07/18	10– 50	25.86	29,800	04/1965
109	06608500	Soldier River at Pisgah, Iowa.	407	27.58	¹ 23,000	07/10	10– 50	28.17	22,500	06/1950
110	06609500	Boyer River at Logan, Iowa.	871	22.20	25,500	07/10	10– 50	² 25.22	30,800	06/1990
111	06799230	Union Creek at Madison, Nebr.	174	25.52	14,500	07/09	(> 50)–100	25.72	15,100	06/1990
112	06799350	Elkhorn River at West Point, Nebr.	5,100	13.94	29,500	07/09	10– 50	² 16.09	33,000	³ 06/1969
113	06800500	Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Nebr.	6,900	15.28	30,400	07/11	10– 50	⁷ 16.60	100,000	06/1944
114	06801000	Platte River at Ashland, Nebr.	84,200	21.45	114,000	07/25	> 100	19.23	¹² 130,000	03/1993
115	06803500	Salt Creek at Lincoln, Nebr.	684	26.52	¹ 30,000	07/24	(> 50)–100	26.15	28,200	06/1951
116	06803510	Little Salt Creek near Lincoln, Nebr.	43.6	20.5	¹ 8,300	07/23	(> 50)–100	20.02	8,000	³ 07/1985
117	06805500	Platte River at Louisville, Nebr.	85,800	11.90	¹ 160,000	07/25	(> 50)–100	12.45	144,000	³ 06/1984
118	06806500	Weeping Water Creek at Union, Nebr.	241	31.15	¹ 70,000	07/23	> 100	29.80	60,300	05/1950
119	06807000	Missouri River at Nebraska City, Nebr.	410,000	27.19	⁸ 196,000	07/23	(> 50)–100	⁵ ⁹ 27.66 ¹⁰ 24.78	⁹ 414,000 ¹⁰ 182,000	04/1952 06/1984
120	06807410	West Nishnabotna River at Hancock, Iowa.	609	23.53	¹ 27,000	07/10	10– 50	22.12	26,400	09/1972
121	06808500	West Nishnabotna River at Randolph, Iowa.	1,326	23.60	22,100	07/23	10– 50	24.50	40,800	05/1987
122	06809500	East Nishnabotna River near Red Oak, Iowa.	894	21.88	21,400	07/23	10– 50	27.43	38,000	09/1972
123	06810000	Nishnabotna River above Hamburg, Iowa.	2,806	30.56	37,700	07/25	(> 50)–100	28.27	55,500	³ 06/1947
124	06811500	Little Nemaha River at Auburn, Nebr.	793	26.3	92,000	07/25	(> 50)–100	27.65	164,000	05/1950
125	06813500	Missouri River at Rulo, Nebr.	414,900	25.37	⁸ 307,000	07/24	> 100	⁹ 25.60 ¹⁰ 24.40	⁹ 358,000 ¹⁰ 242,000	04/1952 06/1984
126	06815000	Big Nemaha River at Falls City, Nebr.	1,340	29.80	59,000	07/06	10– 50	31.40	71,600	10/1973
127	06817000	Nodaway River at Clarinda, Iowa.	762	22.92	27,900	07/22	10– 50	25.3	31,100	06/1947
128	06817700	Nodaway River near Graham, Mo.	1,380	26.14	¹ 70,000	07/23	> 100	23.34	26,600	09/1989
129	06818000	Missouri River at St. Joseph, Mo.	420,300	32.07	⁸ 335,000	07/26	> 100	⁹ 26.82 ¹⁰ 23.83	⁹ 397,000 ¹⁰ 207,000	04/1952 05/1987

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Summary of peak stages and discharges at selected streamflow-gaging stations in the upper Mississippi River Basin—Continued

Site number	Station number	Station name	Drainage area (mi ²)	Flood data						
				Flood of June–August 1993				Previous maximum discharge		
				Peak stage (ft)	Peak discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date	Recurrence interval range (years)	Peak stage (ft)	Maximum discharge (ft ³ /s)	Date
130	06820500	Platte River near Agency, Mo.	1,760	36.07	¹ 60,800	07/25	> 100	35.05	53,000	07/1965
131	06851500	Thompson Creek at Riverton, Nebr.	279	14.65	12,000	07/18	(> 50)–100	⁴ 13.22	12,200	07/1950
132	06853020	Republican River at Guide Rock, Nebr.	22,090	15.40	9,600	07/19	10– 50	² 20.73	29,200	06/1957
133	06879100	Kansas River at Fort Riley, Kans.	44,870	27.93	⁸ 85,500	07/26	10– 50	⁷ 30.53 ¹⁰ 23.74	⁹ 298,000 ¹⁰ 59,400	07/1951 ³ 10/1973
134	06881500	Big Blue River at Beatrice, Nebr.	3,900	28.8	29,000	07/26	10– 50	31.27	55,100	06/1984
135	06884000	Little Blue River at Fairbury, Nebr.	2,350	21.22	25,500	07/27	10– 50	24.33	54,000	07/1992
136	06887500	Kansas River at Wamego, Kans.	55,280	27.33	⁸ 171,000	07/26	(> 50)–100	⁹ 30.56 ¹⁰ 18.70	⁹ 400,000 ¹⁰ 72,900	07/1951 10/1973
137	06889000	Kansas River at Topeka, Kans.	56,720	34.90	⁸ 166,000	07/25	10– 50	⁹ 40.80 ¹⁰ 27.29	⁹ 469,000 ¹⁰ 130,000	07/1951 10/1973
138	06891000	Kansas River at Lecompton, Kans.	58,460	24.65	⁸ 186,000	07/27	(> 50)–100	⁹ 30.23 ¹⁰ 22.73	⁹ 483,000 ¹⁰ 140,000	07/1951 10/1973
139	06893000	Missouri River at Kansas City, Mo.	485,200	48.87	⁸ 541,000	07/27	> 100	⁹ 38.0 ¹⁰ 28.86	⁶ 625,000 ¹⁰ 313,000	06/1844 09/1973
140	06895500	Missouri River at Waverly, Mo.	487,200	31.15	¹ 600,000	07/28	> 100	⁹ 28.20 ¹⁰ 29.22	⁹ 549,000 ¹⁰ 276,000	07/1951 ³ 07/1965
141	06897500	Grand River near Gallatin, Mo.	2,250	41.5	¹ 89,900	07/08	> 100	35.0	69,100	³ 06/1947
142	06897950	Elk Creek near Decatur City, Iowa.	52.5	29.10	¹ 21,500	07/09	10– 50	28.22	18,000	³ 07/1990
143	06898000	Thompson River at Davis City, Iowa.	701	20.53	30,300	07/05	> 100	24.29	57,000	09/1992
144	06899500	Thompson River at Trenton, Mo.	1,670	23.00	56,000	07/06	10– 50	25.7	95,000	06/1947
145	06902000	Grand River near Sumner, Mo.	6,880	² 42.14	150,000	07/10	(> 50)–100	39.5	180,000	06/1947
146	06903400	Chariton River near Chariton, Iowa.	182	22.37	14,200	07/05	(> 50)–100	29.32	37,700	09/1992
147	06903700	South Fork Chariton River near Promise City, Iowa.	168	25.30	19,500	07/05	(> 50)–100	34.84	70,600	09/1992
148	06904500	Chariton River at Novinger, Mo.	1,370	25.71	21,500	07/25	10– 50	28.50	22,900	06/1947
149	06905500	Chariton River near Prarie Hill, Mo.	1,870	21.93	31,500	07/01	> 100	21.96	31,900	04/1973
150	06909000	Missouri River at Boonville, Mo.	501,700	36.97	¹ 750,000	07/29	> 100	⁹ 32.82 ¹⁰ 31.85	⁹ 710,000 ¹⁰ 334,000	³ 06/1844 10/1986
151	06934500	Missouri River at Hermann, Mo.	524,200	36.97	⁸ 750,000	07/31	> 100	⁹ 35.50 ¹⁰ 35.79	⁸ 892,000 ¹⁰ 549,000	06/1844 ³ 10/1986
152	07010000	Mississippi River at St. Louis, Mo.	697,000	49.58	1,080,000	08/01	> 100	43.23	⁶ 1,300,000	³ 06/1844
153	07020500	Mississippi River at Chester, Ill.	708,600	49.59	950,000	08/06	10– 50	43.32	⁶ 1,350,000	³ 06/1844
154	07022000	Mississippi River at At Thebes, Ill.	713,200	45.50	975,000	08/07	10– 50	45.14	⁶ 1,375,000	07/1844

¹Peak discharge for 1993 exceeds the previous maximum known discharge.

²Backwater.

³Date of maximum discharge. Maximum stage was on different date.

⁴Gage at different site and same datum.

⁵Gage at different datum.

⁶Estimated.

⁷Gage at different site and datum.

⁸Peak discharge for 1993 exceeds the previous maximum known regulated discharge.

⁹Before regulation.

¹⁰After regulation.

¹¹About.

¹²Estimated, includes bypass flow caused by ice jam upstream from site.